C.) AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for orienting with respect to an article surface a plurality of non-spherical particles ~~each including a major dimension and each~~

~~of which can be moved by a force applied to each particle~~, comprising the steps of:

disposing ~~the~~ non-spherical particles in a medium ~~the~~ a viscosity of which can be increased, each particle including a major dimension, and each particle being capable of being moved by a force applied to each particle ;

the medium being in a fluid condition with the viscosity selected to provide a selected surface tension in the medium;

disposing the medium with the particles on ~~the~~ a ~~article~~ surface of an article; and

maintaining the medium in the fluid condition for a time selected to enable the surface tension to locate at least about 50% of the plurality of particles with the major dimension in a position generally along the article surface in respect to which each particle is disposed.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 in which[[:]]

the medium with the particles is disposed in a coating of a plurality of superimposed layers on ~~an~~ the article surface~~,~~.

~~each layer being maintained in the fluid condition for the time prior to disposition of a subsequent superimposed layer to enable a combination of gravity and surface tension to locate at least about 60% of the plurality of particles in the coating with the major dimension in the position.~~

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 in which each layer has a thickness in the range of about 0.008-0.012".

20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) The method of claim 18 in which each layer is maintained in the fluid condition for ~~the~~ a time prior to ~~the~~ a disposition of a subsequent superimposed layer to enable a combination of gravity and surface tension to locate at least

about 60% of the plurality of particles in the coating with the major dimension in the position.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 in which each layer has a thickness in the range of about 0.008-0.012".

23. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the article surface is curved.

24. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the article is a complex, three-dimensional, non-planar shape.

25. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the article is a component of a gas turbine engine.

26. (New) A method for orienting with respect to an article surface a plurality of non-spherical particles, comprising the steps of:

disposing non-spherical particles in a matrix, a viscosity of which can be increased, each particle including a major dimension, and each particle being capable of being moved by a force applied to each particle;

the matrix being in a fluid condition with the viscosity and concentration selected to provide a selected surface tension in the matrix;

disposing the matrix with the particles on a surface of an article; and

maintaining the matrix in the fluid condition for a time selected to enable surface tension to locate at least about 50% of the plurality of particles with the major dimension in a position generally along the article surface in respect to which each particle is disposed.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 in which the article is a component of a gas turbine engine.

28. (New) The method of claim 26 in which the matrix with the particles is disposed in a coating of a plurality of superimposed layers on the article surface

29. (New) The method of claim 26 in which the article is a component of a gas turbine engine.

30. (New) The method of claim 26 in which the matrix is maintained in the fluid condition for a time to enable a combination of gravity and surface tension to locate at least about 60% of the plurality of particles in the coating with the major dimension in the position.

31. (New) The method of claim 28 in which each layer is maintained in the fluid condition for a time prior to a disposition of a subsequent superimposed layer to enable a combination of gravity and surface tension to locate at least about 60% of the plurality of particles in the coating with the major dimension in the position.

32. (New) A method for orienting with respect to an article surface a plurality of non-spherical particles, comprising the steps of:

disposing non-spherical particles in a medium a viscosity of which can be increased, each particle including a major dimension, and each particle being capable of being moved by a force applied to each particle;

the medium being in a fluid condition with a viscosity and a concentration selected to provide a selected surface tension in the medium;

disposing the medium with the particles on the article surface; and maintaining the medium in the fluid condition for a time selected to enable a combination of gravity and surface tension to locate at least about 50% of the plurality of particles with the major dimension in a position generally along the article surface in respect to which each particle is disposed.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 in which the article is a component of a gas turbine engine.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 in which the medium with the particles is disposed in a coating of a plurality of superimposed layers on the article surface.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 in which the article is a component of a gas turbine engine.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the article surface is curved.

37. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the article is a complex, three-dimensional, non-planar shape.